

# Dear Legislator,

Since 1986, 1000 Friends of Florida has been promoting sustainable, fiscally responsible growth that preserves our state’s most valuable assets: our environment, agricultural lands, economy and quality of life. Failing to manage growth — spurred over the last year by relocations from other states during the COVID-19 pandemic — puts those assets at risk. The danger signs are all too clear, from devastating red tide and blue-green algae blooms to record deaths of Florida’s iconic manatees to chronically congested roads. If more deliberate steps aren’t taken to plan properly for Florida’s future, taxpayers will pay more to restore tainted waterways and more for diminished public services. Our state’s environment and quality of life, the foundation of a healthy economy, will crumble.

Good policy choices, and your leadership, can stop this from happening. During the upcoming session, we hope you will sponsor or support legislation to enact some or all of 1000 Friends of Florida’s 2022 priorities to:

- Restore citizens’ planning rights while preventing frivolous lawsuits
- Encourage citizen participation in planning their communities through remote options
- Preserve Florida’s most environmentally valuable land by maintaining robust funding for conservation
- Fully implement the recommendations of the Governor’s task forces on blue-green algae and red tide
- Increase funding for water quality improvements and monitoring, and encourage conservation
- Promote community resilience to sea-level rise, flooding and other climate change impacts through coordination, funding and building code upgrades
- Support high-quality transit systems and other community-building alternatives to highways
- Uphold the authority of local governments and their citizens to make local decisions

More details are available on the opposite side of this page. Additional information is available on our website at [www.1000friendsofflorida.org](http://www.1000friendsofflorida.org). Please do not hesitate to contact us as noted below if you have any questions or would like to discuss any of our legislative priorities in greater detail. Thank you for stepping forward to represent your fellow Floridians. With our state continuing to face challenges, your leadership is vital on policies that protect both taxpayers and the environment. We stand ready to work with you to advance these goals.

With thanks from 1000 Friends of Florida’s legislative team,



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## Empower citizens

- Restore citizens' rights to file well-founded challenges to development orders — the only way to ensure consistency with community growth plans — without subjecting citizens to financial ruin
- Promote robust citizen engagement by continued use of remote participation, prerecorded statements, text statements, etc., in planning and other public meetings

## Conserve natural lands

- Maintain at least \$300 million historic funding level for Florida Forever
- Extend bonding authority for Florida Forever to maximize funding impact

## Protect and restore water quality

- Fully carry out the Blue-Green Algae and Red Tide Task Force recommendations, implementing septic and stormwater inspections, improving restoration plans for polluted rivers and springs, and reducing harmful agricultural runoff
- Increase funding for water quality improvements and monitoring, prioritizing springs, Indian River Lagoon and other impaired waterways

## Promote water conservation

- Develop a plan to cap residential water use at 115 gallons per person per day, a standard established under the Central Florida Water Initiative, for all water management districts

## Enhance community resilience

- Promote a more coordinated approach to community resilience by creation of a statewide Office of Resilience, sea-level-rise task force, and other means
- Maintain robust funding for local and regional resilience initiatives
- Upgrade the Florida Building Code to address the impact of sea-level rise, intensified storms, flooding and related hazards on construction projects

## Modernize transportation

- Direct state programs and funding to support high-quality transit systems, complete street initiatives, electric vehicle infrastructure and other sustainable community-building transportation alternatives to toll roads and other highways

## Reunite the river communities

- Direct state agencies to breach the Rodman/Kirkpatrick Dam, restoring a free-flowing Ocklawaha River and reuniting the St. Johns and Ocklawaha Rivers and Silver Springs for people and wildlife

## Uphold home rule

- Require two-thirds vote in each house for legislation that would preempt to the state local government authority for regulation
- Require single subject for any legislation that preempts local government authority
- Establish five-year sunset review period for state legislation that preempts local government authority